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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 3 USNATO 5681

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/81

TAGS: MCAP, PINR, NATO, XF

SUBJECT: NAC MEETING NOV 21: TEXT OF INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

REF: USNATO 5640

FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TEXT OF NATO SECRET BRIEFING GIVEN TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, INTELLIGENCE DIVISION INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF, ON NOV 21 (REFTEL).
BEGIN TEXT

INTRODUCTION

1. THIS BRIEFING IS A CONTINUATION OF THOSE GIVEN AT REGULAR INTERVALS AT THE REQUEST OF THE COUNCIL; IT CONCENTRATES ON SOVIET ACTIVITIES BUT SIMILAR TRENDS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED IN THE OTHER WARSAW PACT FORCES.

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THE MIDDLE EAST WAR

2. NO DOUBT, YOU WILL EXPECT ME TO START WITH THE MIDDLE EAST WAR. THE FACTS HAVE BEEN WIDELY COVERED BY TI SHALL DRAW

ATTENTION TO CERTAIN SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN MORE DETAIL LATER. THE IMPORTANT QUESTION IS WHAT LESSONS CAN WE LEARN? IT IS TOO EARLY AND WE HAVE TOO LITTLE FIRM INTELLIGENCE TO PROVIDE REALLY VALID ASSESSMENTS. HOWEVER, EVEN A SUPERFICIAL CONSIDERATION OF THE MORE OBVIOUS MATTERS SUCH AS THE USE OF AIRCRAFT IN A SURFACE TO AIR (SAM) ENVIRONMENT, THE EMPLOYMENT OF TANKS IN ANTI-TANK MISSILE ENVIRONMENT AND VALUE OF ELECTRONIC COUNTERMEASURES AND ELECTRONIC COUNTER-COUNTERMEASURES, SHOWS THAT THE WORK WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN NATO ON SUCH STUDIES AS AD70, FORCES GOALS AND SO ON ARE ON THE RIGHT LINES AND HAVE ALREADY TO A GREAT EXTENT ANTICIPATED THE IMPACT OF SUCH NEW EQUIPMENT.

3. SPEAKING FROM AN INTELLIGENCE POINT OF VIEW, THERE IS ONE LESSON WHICH WE RE-LEARNED; THAT IS OUR COMPLETE DEPENDENCE UPON NATIONAL SOURCES FOR OUR INFORMATION AND FOR ASSESSMENTS OF ANY SITUATION. IN THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF THE WAR, APART FROM INPUTS FROM ONE OF TWO NATIONS, WE HAD TO DEPEND ALMOST COMPLETELY ON THE NEWS MEDIA TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING. I AM SURE THAT THE SITUATION WOULD BE DIFFERENT IN A EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT, BUT IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT HOME TO US AGAIN OUR RELIANCE UPON TIMELY AND ACCURATE REPORTS AND ABOVE ALL ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS IF NATO IS TO REACT QUICKLY AND RESPONSIBLY IN A CRISIS. SO MUCH FOR THE BROAD OUTLINE OF THE MIDDLE EAST WAR. TURNING NOW TO MORE SPECIFIC SOVIET MATTERS...

SOVIET MILITARY COMMAND

4. RECENTLY THE SOVIET MILITARY COMMAND HAS BEEN GREATLY REJUVENATED WITH MANY YOUNGER MEN OF PROVEN PROFESSIONAL ABILITY BEING BROUGHT IN AT ALL LEVELS. IT SEEMS THAT PARTY AFFILIATIONS, WHILE STILL RELEVANT, MAY HAVE BECOME LESS IMPORTANT THAN TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL MILITARY ABILITY.

SOVIET STRENGTH FACING ACE

5. THERE HAS BEEN NO REDUCTION IN THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE GROUND FORCES FACING ALLIED COMMAND EUROPE AND AT THE SAME
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TIME THERE IS GOOD EVIDENCE OF IMPROVED CAPABILITY, PARTICULARLY IN THE AIR DEFENCE OF THE GROUND FORCES. THE INTRODUCTION OF THE MOBILE SA-6 SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE IN THE SOVIET FORCES IN GERMANY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND IN HUNGARY HAS FURTHER IMPROVED THE AIR DEFENCE CAPABILITY OF THE GROUND FORCES.

6. THE STANDARDIZATION OF EQUIPMENT, ORGANIZATIONS AND PROCEDURES THROUGHOUT THE WARSAW PACT FORCES CONTINUES: THIS PROCESS SIMPLIFIES COOPERATION, COMBINED PLANNING AND LOGISTIC PROBLEMS, THEREBY IMPROVING THEIR COMBAT EFFICIENCY.

7. THE SEMI-ANNUAL ROTATION OF TROOPS IN THE FORWARD AREA FOLLOWS A STANDARD PATTERN. IN THE SPRING OF THIS YEAR A SUB-

STANTIAL PART OF THE TROOPS WAS AGAIN ROTATED BY AIR. THE EMPLOYMENT OF A NUMBER OF TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT ON THE AIRLIFT TO THE MIDDLE EAST IS NOT AFFECTING THE AIR-LIFTED COMPONENT OF THE FALL TROOP ROTATION WHICH IS NOW UNDERWAY, AND WHICH HAS ALREADY ACCOUNTED FOR 264 SORTEIS, THE HIGHEST NUMBER EVER RECORDED.

SOVIET AIR ACTIVITIES.

8. THE HIGHLIGHT OF SOVIET AIR ACTIVITY DURING THE PERIOD HAS BEEN THE AIRLIFT TO THE MIDDLE EAST. THE SPEED WITH WHICH THAT OPERATIONS WAS MOUNTED AND THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS MADE OVER A LONG-DISTANCE ROUTE, DEMONSTRATED VERY CLEARLY THE SOVIET ABILITY TO REINFORCE AN AREA QUICKLY AND SUBSTANTIALLY WHEN IT IS IN THEIR INTEREST TO DO SO.

9. WE HAVE NOTED A CONTINUATION IN AIR-TO-GROUND SUPPORT TRAINING MISSIONS, DEPLOYMENT AND MOBILITY EXERCISES AND ABOVE ALL IN THE USE OF ELECTRONIC COUNTERMEASURES. NEARLY ALL AIR EXERCISES ARE CONDUCTED IN A HEAVY ELECTRONIC COUNTERMEASURES ENVIRONMENT.

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10. THE EMPHASIS WHICH THE SOVIETS ARE PLACING ON AIR TO GROUND SUPPORT MERITS OUR ATTENTION. THE DESTRUCTION OF AIRCRAFT FLYING THIS TYPE OF MISSION REQUIRES QUICK RESPONSE ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS. THE ISSUE OF THE HAND-HELD SA-7 GRAIL SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE AT UNIT LEVEL IN THE WARSAW PACT FORCES DEMONSTRATES THE SOVIET AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM. ALTHOUGH THIS WEAPON WAS APPARENTLY VERY

SUCCESSFUL IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAR, THE TIMELY DETECTION AND POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF FRIEND OR FOE BY INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS PRESENTS A CONTROL PROBLEM. REPORTS OF ARABS SHOOTING DOWN THEIR OWN AIRCRAFT TEND TO CONFIRM THAT IN THE HANDS OF INADEQUATELY TRAINED MEN, IT CAN BE A SOURCE OF DANGER.

11. THIS YEAR HAS SEEN A WIDER DEPLOYMENT OF MIG-23 (FLOGGER) WITH TACTICAL AVIATION IN THE WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICTS OF THE USSR. SOME OF THESE AIRCRAFT ARE ALSO IN THE SOVIET TACTICAL AIR ARMY IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND POLAND FOR PILOT FAMILIARIZATION. IF INTRODUCED IN SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS IN THE FORWARD AREA, THEY WOULD POSE A MAJOR PROBLEM TO NATOS AIR
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DEFENCE AS THEY HAVE A GREATLY INCREASED RANGE AND WEAPONS CAPABILITY OVER THE OLDER TYPES. SIMILARLY AN INCREASE IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF MIG-25 (OFXBAT) AIRCRAFT TO AIR DEFENCE DISTRICTS IN THE USSR HAS BEEN RECORDED.

12. TWO VERSIONS OF THE BACKFIRE BOMBER ARE COMING INTO SERVICE ALTHOUGH AT PRESENT THE AIRCRAFT ARE ONLY BEING USED FOR CREW TRAINING. THIS AIRCRAFT CAN REACH TARGETS IN NORTH AMERICA PROVIDING IT HAS IN-FLIGHT REFUELLING.

THE SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY

13. THE SOVIET PRESENCE AT SEA MAINTAINED A STEADY LEVEL UNTIL THE OUTBREAK OF THE MIDDLE EAST WAR WHICH LED TO AN UNPRECEDENTED REINFORCEMENT OF THE SOVIETMEDITERRANEAN SQUADRON. AT ITS PEAK THE SQUADRON NUMBERED MORE THAN 90 SHIPS OF VARIOUS TYPES. THE STRENGTH OF THE SQUADRON IS NOW BEING STEADILY REDUCED AS SHIPS RETURN TO THE BLACK SEA AND THE NORTH, AND IS NOW AT ABOUT 75 SHIPS. IN SPITE OF THE REINFORCEMENTS, THE SQUADRON MAINTAINED A LOW PROFILE ATTITUDE, REMAINING WELL CLEAR OF THE WAR ZONE EXCEPT FOR THE AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS TAKING MATERIAL TO SYRIA, AND THE FIGHTING ESCORT PROFICED TO THEM.

14. IN ADDITION TO THE NAVAL SEA-LIFT IT IS REPORTED THAT IN THE PERIOD SINCE 5 OCTOBER, 116 SOVIET AND WARSAW PACT MERCHANT SHIPS HAVE CALLED AT EGYPTIAN, SYRIAN AND LIBYAN AIRPORTS. THIS COULD REPRESENT A CARRYING CAPACITY OF ABOUT ONE MILLION TONS.

15. RECENT EVENTS HAVE AGAIN SHOWN, THAT THE SOVIETS CAN QUICKLY CONCENTRATE A SUITABLE NAVAL FORCE WHEN IT IS REQUIRED. IN THIS RECENT CASE, THE PROXIMITY OF THE BLACK SEA BASES TO THE OPERATING AREA MADE IT APPEAR EASY FOR THEM; IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT IN PEACETIME THERE ARE FEW PROBLEMS IN PASSING SURFACE COMBATANTS THROUGH THE TURKISH STRAITS.

16. THE SOVIET NAVY HAS CARRIED OUT A NUMBER OF PORT VISITS TO VARIOUS COUNTRIES THROUGHTOUT THE WORLD. THIS SLIDE SHOWS THAT PLACES VISITED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN DURING THE PERIOD AUGUST 1972

TO SEPTEMBER 1973. THE VISITS SHOWN TO ITALY AND FRANCE WERE
NEARLY ALL MADE BY SMALL NAVAL-ASSOCIATED SURVEY SHIPS (AGS).
HOWEVER, THOSE ALONG THE NORTH AFRICAN LITTORAL DEMONSTRATE THE
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SOVIETS'S APPRECIATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF EXERTING INFLUENCE ON
OTHER NATIONS BY PEACEFUL MEANS, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THEY HAVE
ACHIEVED SOME SUCCESS IN THIS AREA.

17. NAVAL ACTIVITY ELSEWHERE HAS FOLLOWED A NORMAL AND
UNSPECTACULAR COURSE. THEY HAVE MAINTAINED A SLIGHTLY INCREASED
NAVAL PRESENCE OFF CONAKRY AND CARRIED OUT A SECOND SEA-LIFT OF
MOROCCAN TROOPS TO SYRIA IN JULY. IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT NAVAL
DEPLOYMENTS ARE SUPPORTED BY AN INCREASINGLY MODERN 'AFLOAT SUPPORT'
FLEET.

18. OUT-OF-AREA FLIGHTS FROM THE NORTHERN FLEET AIR FORCE TO
THE NORTH ATLANTIC AND NORWEGIAN SEA CONTINUE. HOWEVER, THIS YEAR
APART FROM THE USUAL DEPLOYMENT OF BEAR AIRCRAFT TO CUBA, WE HAVE
SEEN, FOR THE FIRST TIME, DEPLOYMENTS OF BEARS TO CONAKRY. THIS
NEW BASE PROVIDES A SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED RECONNAISSANCE CAPA-
BILITY, AS AIRCRAFT FROM THERE CAN COVER THE WHOLE SOUTH ATLANTIC
OUTSIDE THE NATO RADAR COVER.

NEW EQUIPMENT

19. TURNING NOW TO NEW SOVIET EQUIPMENT, TWO NEW SOVIET SUB-
MARINES HAVE BEEN NOTED SINCE THE MC 161 REPORT. ONE IS A LARGE
SHIP WITH SOME FEATURES OF THE "V" CLASS NUCLEAR ATTACK SUBMARINE
(SHOWN ON THIS SLIDE); IT WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNATED "V-II" BUT IT
IS NOW ASSESSED THAT THERE ARE ENOUGH DIFFERENCES TO JUSTIFY
DESIGNATING A NEW CLASS WHICH HAS BEEN CALLED THE "U"-CLASS. THE
OTHER IS A NEW CONVENTIONAL SUBMARINE DESIGNATED THE "T"-CLASS.

20. WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS OF A NEW FAMILY OF INTER-CONTI-
NETAL BALLISTIC MISSILES, SS-X-16, SS-X-17, SS-X-18 AND SS-X-19.
ANALYSIS OF THESE NEW WEAPONS IS CONTINUING BUT AT THIS TIME IT
APPEARS THAT ALL EXCEPT THE SS-X-16 WILL BE CAPABLE OF CARRYING A
MULTIPLE INDEPENDENTLY-TARGETED RE-ENTRY VEHICLE (MIRV) PAYLOAD.

21. NUMBERS OF INTERESTING EQUIPMENT WERE SIGHTED AT THE ANNUAL
MOSCOW PARADE THIS YEAR. THIS INCLUDED:
-. A CANISTER, PROBABLY CARRYING AN SS-11 ICBM WHICH HAS
NOT BEEN PARADED BEFORE.

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B. 48 LIGHT TANKS PROBABLY FOR USE BY THE AIRBORNE FORCES.

C. A MODIFIED ASU-85 ASSULT GUN.

D. A NEW ANTI-TANK MISSILE.

ALL THIS EQUIPMENT WILL NEED ACAREFUL ANALYSIS.

STRATEGIC MISSILE FIRINGS

22. THE SOVIETS HAVE FIRED A LARGE NUMBER OF VARIOUS STRATEGIC MISSILES THIS YEAR. THE NUMBER OF SS-11S IS PARTICULARLY HIGH AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IN ADDITION TO TROOP TRAINING THEY ARE IN THE PROCESS OF EMPTYING THE SILOS AND SITES IN ORDER TO INSTALL NEWER WEAPONS OR UP-DATED MODELS OF THE OLD ONES.

SUMMARY

23. THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT DEVIATED FROM
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THEIR LONG-TERM AIMS,. UNTIL THE MIDDLE EAST WAR IT WAS FELT THAT THEY WERE MAINTAINING A COMPARATIVELY UNOBSTRUSIVE ATTITUDE; POSSIBLY THIS WAS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH OGGD STANDING IN THE MBFR AND CSCE NEGOTIATIONS. CERTAINLY THEY AVOIDED ANY SPECTACULAR ACTIVITIES; THEY HAVE FOUND THAT THESE HAVE THE DISADVANTAGE OF SHARPENING THE DEFENCE POSTURE OF THE WEST. NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS PLENTY OF EVIDENCE OF EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THEIR EQUIPMENT FURTHER AND THEREBY THEIR FIGHTING CAPABILITY.

24. IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAR, WE MAY HAVE AN EXAMPLE OF LENIN'S THEORY OF "FIGHTING BY PROXY". THE SOVIETS HAVE AS USUAL

BEEN QUICK TO CAPITALIZE ON THE SITUATION EVEN IF IT WERE NOT
ACTUALLY OF THEIR MAKING. THE RECENT ACTIONS OF THE ARAB NATIONS
OVER OIL ARE WORKING TO THE BEFEBIT OF THE SOVIETS.

25. FURTHERMORE, THE SOVIETS HAVE ONCE AGAIN, BY THEIR
AIR LIFT AND CONCENTRATION OF NAVAL FORCES, SHOWN THEIR ABILITY
AND WILLINGNESS TO USE THEIR MILITARY POTENTIAL WHEREVER AND
WHENEVER IT IS IN THEIR INTEREST TO DO SO .

26. THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS IN THE MILITARY FIELD TO
JUSTIFY ANY COMPLACENCY OR RELAXATION ON THE PART OF NATO.
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